(e) what were their views;

(f) whether Government assured them any financial compensation for their rehabilitation; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) to (e) Tobacco farmers, representatives of India Tobacco Association, Guntur, Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry and Beedi/Cigarette manufacturers were invited to attend the conference.

A series of recommendations were made in the Conference.

(f) and (g) Opinions were expressed for monetary help to farmers for changing over their tobacco cultivation to alternative crop.

Invention of Oral Drug for Thalassemia Treatment

2695. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to certain reports claiming invention of oral drug for Thalassemia treatment by some doctor of London's Royal Free Hospital;

(b) whether it is claimed that this oral drug minimises the cost of Thalassemia treatment by 90 per cent;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to have any study efficacy of this new invention to provide medical benefits to the suffering patients of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Dr. George S. Kontog-hiorhes of Department of Haematology, Royal Free Hospital London has developed a new drug known as Deperiprone as per the report which is found to be orally effective in removing excess of iron.

(d) The drug has also been developed indigenously, the cost of which is claimed to be significantly less than that of the imported injectable drug Desferrioxamine.

(e) Based on the satisfactory clinical trial report and the recommendation of Indian Council of Medical Research the drug is approved for marketing under the close supervision of Haematologists.

Recognition of British Medical Degrees by Indian Medical Council

2696. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for recognition of British Medical Degrees by the Indian Medical Council and the Indian Medical Degrees to be recognised by the British Medical Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of the British Medical Council in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Kidney Transplant Racket in Kaushalya Nursing Home, Bombay

2697. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the kidney transplant racket in the Kaushalya Nursing Home in Bombay;

(b) whether the matter has been inquired into by Government; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof and what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Government of Maharashtra is taking appropriate action.

Functioning of Ayurveda Chikitsalayam in New Delhi

2698. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to certain advertisements which appeared in the first week of March, 1995 claiming that Ayurveda Chikitsalayam functioning in New Delhi can cure Paralysis, Arthritis, Spondilitis, Slip Disc etc. on Kerala way;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the techniques of such treatments to various diseases have been studied and approved by Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the action proposed to be taken for misleading the people;

(e) whether Government propose to provide similar treatment in Ayurvedic Dispensaries under Central Government Health Scheme in case the treatments have been approved by Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government is not aware of the details of the services offered by the above private institution. However, Panchakarma therapy is an approved method of the Ayurveda system for the treatment of Paralysis, Arthritis and Spondilitis.

(e) and (f) The CGHS Ayurveda Hospital, Aliganj, New Delhi is already providing panchakarma treatment to the CGHS beneficiaries.

Growth Rate of Population

2699. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan represent areas of explosive growth of population;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken to popularise family planning in these States?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) According to the provisional SRS estimates of 1993, the natural growth rate of population in these four States is higher than the national average.

(c) An Action Plan formulated in consultation with the State Governments and Union Territories is under implementation. Its features include improving the quality and outreach of services, promotion of spacing methods among younger age couples, special focus on 90 lagging districts, involving voluntary and non-governmental organisations to promote community participation and strengthening of interventions to promote maternal and child health care. Out of the 90 lagging districts receiving special attention, 85 are in these four States.

Birth rate and Infant Mortality rate in the Country

2700. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some districts in the country with a high crude birth rate and high infant mortality have been identified by Government for different programmes;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;